GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3709
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2002
VOTER IDENTITY CARDS
SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that over 2 lakh people belonging to Jammu & Kashmir are living out of the State, most of them in camps etc. without being self-sufficient;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government had apprised the Election Commission of this horrible situation;

(c) whether the Government would issue voter identity card to such persons and make arrangement for their voting; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI)

(a) & (b) : As per information available, 56225 families have migrated from the Valley. Of these, 34305 families are staying in Jammu, 19338 families in Delhi and 2282 families in other States. 238 Kashmiri migrant families are living in 14 camps in Delhi and 4778 families in 12 camps in Jammu. Others are living as per their own arrangements. Various State Governments/Union territory Administrations where Kashmiri migrants have been staying have been providing relief to the migrants in accordance with the rules in vogue in their States. The Chief Electoral Officer of Jammu and Kashmir had issued a public notice inviting attention of the Kashmiri migrants to approach zonal officers who have been designated at Delhi, Jammu and Chandigarh to accept applications from desirous persons applying for inclusion/correction/deletion of names from the electoral rolls.

(c) & (d) :The migrants of Jammu and Kashmir living in various camps in Jammu region and outside the State have been enrolled as electors and provided facilities to cast their votes either in person or through postal ballot. It may be added that for the recently held general elections (2002) in Jammu and Kashmir, the Kashmiri migrants were allowed to vote using electronic voting machines at the specially provided polling stations in Jammu, Udhampur and Delhi in addition to the facility of voting through postal ballot. For those Kashmiri migrants, who have moved out of the Valley but have chosen to keep their names in the electoral rolls of the Valley Assembly constituencies from where they had been displaced, the Commission has not yet worked out a scheme/design for the Electors` Photo Identity Cards as their current address and the address on their electoral rolls are different.